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**MARYLAND RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S. SOLAR INDUSTRY AS  
A NATIONAL LEADER IN THE THRIVING SOLAR SECTOR**

*Report by the Solar Energy Industries Association recognizes Maryland as one of the top ten states to do business*

**TALBOT COUNTY, MD (June 28, 2011)**– The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) today announced that Maryland has been recognized by the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) as a national leader in the solar industry. The SEIA report, published on June 16th, comes as Maryland recognizes the success of its ambitious Project Sunburst initiative at a ribbon cutting event in Talbot County today highlighting an 890 kilowatt array installed there. Maryland's solar capacity has grown by more than 20,000% in recent years – surging from 100 kilowatts in 2006 to more than 20 megawatts today.

“By making smart investments and leveraging private dollars, Maryland is leading the nation in the new innovation economy,” said Malcolm Woolf, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. “Investing in renewable energy delivers real results for Maryland by creating new green jobs, reducing long term energy bills, and protecting our environment for generations to come.”

SEIA's report – U.S. Solar Market Insight™ Q1 2011 – shows that the solar industry continued to rank among the fastest growing sectors of the American economy, and that the bulk of that growth has taken place in states – like Maryland – which have already established themselves as leaders in this emerging market. In Maryland, installed solar capacity has grown by more than 20,000% since 2006, powering Maryland's surge into the nation's top ten states for solar, up from 16th place in 2010.

The state's thriving solar sector can be attributed both to Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) goal of generating 20% of the state's energy from renewable resources by 2022 – including 2% from solar energy sources – and to MEA's smart investments in solar systems. Since early 2010, MEA has invested more than \$24 million in commercial, governmental, and residential solar systems, leveraging more than \$92 million in private investment and positioning Maryland as a leader in one of the nation's fastest growing industries.

Today's ribbon cutting in Talbot County recognizes the 4th Project Sunburst facility to come online in recent months. The facility, which was developed by Nautilus Solar, has a capacity of 890 kilowatts – making it one of the largest solar arrays in the state. In total, Project Sunburst will result in the addition of 9.3 megawatts of new solar energy generation capacity, the creation of more than 80 jobs, and the installation of roughly 40,000 U.S. manufactured solar panels in Maryland.

For more information, [visit the Maryland Energy Administration](http://www.energy.maryland.gov).

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